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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Nitric Acid Production

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1. There are three principal plants in the People's Republic (DDR) manufacturing high-concentration nitric acid. They are the YKB chemical works "Walter Ulbricht" (Leuna), the Buna-Werke in Schkopau, and the Stickstoffwerk (nitrogen works) in Piesteritz. The Elektro-Chemische Kombinat in Bitterfeld now manufactures nitric acid only for its own requirements.
2. The Schkopau Buna-Werke delivered 202 tons of nitric acid in January 1954, of which 23 tons went to the cellulose works at Eilenburg. It is estimated that the Piesteritz works produce about the same quantity per month as the Buna-Werke. Piesteritz produces anhydrous (about 96 percent) nitric acid. Its entire output goes to the Soviet Union.
3. The nitric acid produced at the Buna-Werke is put up for shipment in chrome-iron-alloy containers. The nitric acid manufactured in the Leuna works is in large part processed to "Konversionsalpeter". Leuna since 1951 has also been the principal supplier of nitric acid to plants in the Soviet Zone. A large quantity of nitric acid is also consumed in Leuna, because the works recently have resumed the manufacture of varnish bases and varnish.

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